

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Members of Congress, I ask my Republican colleagues to read your lips. Balance the budget before you cut \$245 billion in taxes, before you cut \$270 billion in Medicare, before you cut educational funding.

Let us work bipartisanship on a balanced budget, but not by cutting Medicare and Medicaid, not by cutting and raising premium costs for seniors and limiting seniors' ability to choose their own physician. We can work bipartisanship on a balanced budget but not by cutting Medicare and education.

Read your own lips. Balance the budget without cutting \$245 billion in taxes.

WHAT A BALANCED BUDGET WILL MEAN

(Mr. BAKER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BAKER of California. Mr. Speaker, Republicans are moving forward with the first balanced budget in a generation. Our Balanced Budget Act will provide the American family with budget bonuses for their own check-book.

A balanced budget means that interest rates will drop, allowing families to save thousands on home mortgages, car loans, and student loans. A balanced budget means an additional \$32.1 billion in real disposable income over the next 7 years. A balanced budget means an additional \$88.2 billion in capital investment over the next 7 years. And a balanced budget means a stronger economy and more job opportunities for all.

With all the benefits a balanced budget will bring to the American people, I do not understand why the Clinton Democrats support maintaining the status quo. Balance the budget now. Our children's generation depends on it.

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ARE REPUBLICANS SERIOUS ABOUT BALANCING THE BUDGET?

(Mr. FORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Republicans are serious when they talk about balancing a budget. What we are really talking about today and will be talking about later today, rather, is that \$32 billion for low-income working families will be wiped completely out on their taxes, and also student loans will be just cut drastically because of what the Republicans will bring to this House floor today.

The \$270 billion out of the Medicare Program, these are drastic cuts that are going to be made today by the Re-

publicans just to give the wealthy and the rich of this country a \$245 billion tax cut.

We think that is wrong. We ought to seriously be about the business of the American people today and not try to fool the American people with this balanced budget talk.

THOSE STUBBORN FACTS

(Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, facts are stubborn things.

Bill Clinton was elected with a minority of voters, 43 percent, fewer votes than Michael Dukakis got when he lost to George Bush in a rout.

Bill Clinton had his policies overwhelmingly rejected nationwide 2 years later when both the House and Senate went Republican for the first time in 40 years.

Bill Clinton has been rejected by over 150 elected officials, elected with a minority of 150 of voters, officials, including six Members of Congress who have left his own party since he has taken office.

Bill Clinton has said publicly in a variety of occasions that he would balance the Federal budget in 5, 7, 8, 9, and 10 years.

Bill Clinton, in his first State of the Union Address, pointedly chided House Republicans by saying he would force truth in budgeting by using CBO scoring numbers.

Now he would have us and the people of this country believe and trust him and believe that he represents what the people of America want.

Absolutely amazing.

A SORRY SPECTACLE

(Mr. WYNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WYNN. Mr. Speaker, my constituents who are Federal employees are watching more C-SPAN now than ever, and they are being treated to a sorry spectacle, a bunch of opinionated stuffed shirts sitting around bickering while they are getting paid, while peoples' lives are being disrupted, and while Federal employees are losing their paychecks. Yes, I am in that group.

But it is a sorry spectacle. My colleagues on the right like to say we ought to run this place like a business. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, no globally competitively business treats its employees this way. We have broken faith with Federal employees. We have jeopardized their families and undermined their confidence in their employer. That is us.

We have also lost a lot. We have lost their loyalty and willingness to go the extra yard.

We ought to put Federal workers back to work. We ought to pay essen-

tial employees on time. We ought to pay all employees retroactively.

On this budget, I will make a deal with my Republican colleagues. I signed on the other night to a 7-year balanced budget. You get rid of the tax break for the rich, and we can work this thing out. But as long as Republicans want to pay off their rich friends, we cannot have a balanced budget.

ALL WE ASK

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, 1,262 days ago, President Bill Clinton promised a 5-year plan to balance the budget. Two unbalanced budgets later, the President still has presented no balanced budget plan.

Today, much of the Federal Government is shut down because the President will not keep his promise. He has closed the Government because he opposes any plan to balance the budget over 7 years.

We do not ask the President to adopt our Balanced Budget Act of 1995. We do not ask the President to accept our proposal to save Medicare from bankruptcy. We do not ask the President to support our plan to make regulations more cost-effective.

We do not ask the President to approve our plan to return some of his huge tax increase to the American families who earned the money in the first place. We do not ask the President to adopt a single provision of our balanced budget plan.

All we ask is that the President kept his word. We ask the President to commit to balance the budget in 7 years using honest numbers. That is all. And that is not too much to ask for the American people.

REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE REPORT ON THE RECONCILIATION BILL

(Mrs. CLAYTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Speaker, today we will consider the Republican conference report of the reconciliation bill, not the conference report but the Republican conference report. I say that purposely to say that the Democratic conferees have had very little input in what now will be presented to the House.

Yes, this is a time we should discuss our values and our priorities. I say the Republicans should understand we will reject this.

Why? Not because we are fiscally irresponsible, but because we are compassionate, because we are responsible to all America, not just a few in America. We understand what it means to have senior citizens not to have health care.